WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of aligning an optics deck in six degrees of freedom comprising:

mounting an optics deck having a scanline slot on an optics alignment station by means of three adjustable leveler assemblies located at three apexes of a triangle which enclose said slot and whose sides establish axes about which adjustment of said leveler assemblies is carried out such that the bottom surface of said optics deck is parallel to said optics alignment station and at a known height relative to said optics alignment station;

translating said optics deck to bring it into proper optical alignment by translating said deck linearly along an axis coincident with the center line of said slot and rotationally about first and second points coincident with the end points of said scan line; and

fixing said optics deck after said translating to said leveler assemblies.

2. An optics deck for supporting an optical system comprising:

a planar member having a linear scanline slot;

three vertically adjustable leveler assemblies located at three apexes of a triangle which enclose the slot and which has sides which establish axes about which vertical adjustment of the leveler assemblies is carried out to bring the bottom surface of the planar member parallel to and at a known height from a known planar surface; and

means for mounting said leveler assemblies on said planar member such that said planar member can be translated in three degrees of freedom relative to said leveler assemblies without changing the vertical adjustment of said leveler assemblies without changing the vertical adjustment of said leveler assemblies.

3.   The optics deck of claim 2 wherein said means for mounting includes three oversize holes in said planar member in which said three leveler assemblies are installed.

4.   The optics deck of claim 3 wherein each of said leveler assemblies include a vertically adjustable leveler, a leveler mount, a leveler mount holder and means for fixedly securing said holder to said planar member.

5.   The optics deck of claim 2 wherein said three degrees of freedom in which said planar member can be translated include linear translation along an axis coincident to the centerline of said scan line slot and respective rotational translation about two points representing the end points of a scanline at a media plane.

6.   An optics deck for supporting an optical system comprising:

a planar member having first, second, third and fourth linear sides for supporting an optical assembly;

a first vertically adjustable leveler assembly mounted in an oversized hole at a midpoint of said third side of said planar member;

second and third vertically adjustable leveler assemblies mounted outboard of said planar member near the ends of said second and fourth sides of said planar member;

wherein said first leveler assembly is mounted within said oversized hole for translation in all directions; and

wherein said second and third leveler assemblies are mounted for linear translation.

7.   The optical deck of claim 6 including means for fixedly holding in place said first, second and third leveler assemblies relative to said planar member.